

# Coast Road mine back on

- ▶ \$63m annual export earnings
  - ▶ 137 jobs promised
-

Laura Mills

---

A proposed open-cast mineral sands mine on farmland at Barrytown could produce \$63 million of export earnings each year, the trans-Tasman mining company says.

TiGa Minerals and Metals (TiGa) intends re-lodging a resource consent application, which it has asked to be publicly notified. The initial consent was not notified and drew howls of protest from Coast Road residents. Consent was refused because of insufficient supporting information.

A fresh application will be filed with the West Coast Regional Council around mid-April.

TiGa staff were on the West Coast last week meeting with people, including some Barrytown residents.

A report prepared for the company says the Barrytown mine, once fully operational, is likely to produce \$63m of export earnings each year from the production and export of gold, garnet, ilmenite and zircon, boosting Grey district exports by 46%.



**Robert Brand**

commissioned research to ensure there is a complete portfolio of information about the proposal and its impacts when it goes through the resource consent process with local councils.

“TiGa is committed to ensuring manawhenua, the community and key stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in the consent process to ensure everyone is listened to and the process is open and transparent,” Mr Brand said.

The report also estimates the mine will create 57 direct jobs and 80 new support jobs elsewhere in the economy, the majority of which are likely to be filled by local or regional residents.

Overall, the report says, the economic benefits of the mine to the district and region are “substantial” and outweigh potential economic costs.

“In my view, economic costs associated with the proposal are unlikely to be significant or widely distributed and are limited to potential visual amenity and noise effects, which have been addressed by other experts,” report author John Ballingall said.

TiGa managing director Robert Brand says the company has

“As TiGa moves forward with the application, it intends to form close working relationships with the community, including the formation of a working group to better engage with the community on the project following the hearing process.”

The supporting report says the mine would lead to an 81% increase in mining employment in the Grey district, contribute \$6.6m a year in directly-employed wages, and \$27.4m a year mining operation spending (e.g. equipment hire, repairs and maintenance).

It would contribute \$33.7m of additional GDP each year, and \$1.5m in annual mining royalties to the New Zealand Government.